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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, March 27, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:20 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Our Father, You have created us to glorify You and enjoy You forever. You have developed in us the desire to know You and have given us the gift of faith to accept Your unqualified love. You turn our struggles into stepping stones. We know Your promise is true: You will never leave us or forsake us. You give us strength when we are weak, gracious correction when we fail, and undeserved grace when we need it most. You lift us up when we fall and give us new chances when we are devoid of hope. And just when we think there is no place to turn, You meet us and help us return to You. We say with the psalmist, "Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all of His benefits."—Psalm 103:1-2.

Lord our work this day is an expression of our grateful worship. You have called us to lead this Nation. Fill us with Your spirit. Infinite wisdom, we need Your perspective, plan, and purpose. We must make crucial evaluations and decisive decisions. The future of this Nation is dependent on the guidance You give us this day. Thank You for making us wise. In Your holy name. Amen.

Mr. COVERDELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Georgia.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, this morning, the time for the two leaders has been reserved and there will now be a period for morning business until the

hour of 10:15 a.m., with Senators to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the exception of the following: Senator COVERDELL, up to 10 minutes; Senator CAMPBELL, up to 10 minutes; Senator COHEN, up to 10 minutes; Senator THOMAS, up to 5 minutes; and Senator KERREY up to 15 minutes.

At the hour of 10:15 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Mr. Glickman, to be Secretary of Agriculture, for 10 minutes of debate. At the hour of 10:25, this morning, there will be a 15-minute rollcall vote for the confirmation of the nomination.

Following the rollcall vote, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1158, the supplemental appropriations bill. Senators should, therefore, be aware that, following the 10:25 vote, other rollcall votes can be expected throughout the day's session.

Mr. President, I would like to be recognized according to the order.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, the President was in my State and city yesterday in what was promoted as an economic summit. I think one could take some question with that definition, but we will let that stand.

The day before that, I had an opportunity to come to the Senate floor and to discuss findings of the bipartisan entitlements commission. I specifically referred to one piece of data that just stares at you from that report. It should make every American somber

and humble. Because what it essentially says is that within 10 years—historically that is a snap of the finger, Mr. President—within 10 years, all of our U.S. revenues, all of it, are consumed by 5 things; 5 expenditures, 5 out of 1,000—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal retirement, and the interest on our debt, and then there is nothing left. There is nothing for the School Lunch Program that we are pointing fingers at each other about. There is not a Defense Department, a road, a canal, a port widening, an Education Department, an agricultural bill, nothing.

Mr. President, this is a calamity that this generation of Americans must confront. I said that it was, in my judgment, a calling so extraordinary to put it in the league of the Founders of the Nation—the fight to keep the Nation united, the fight in Europe. It is of that consequence.

When I hear the President and his administration suggesting that we do not have a problem, I am stunned and appalled—stunned and appalled. To be moving across the country suggesting that everything is a tulip patch, to bring a budget, in the face of the balanced budget amendment and the bipartisan entitlements commission, and to give us a budget that adds \$1.4 trillion to the debt, \$200 billion in deficits for as far as the eye can see, shows either a total disconnect with what is happening in the country or contempt.

Mr. President, Secretary Rubin said:

Another way to look at this is that, without the interest the Federal Government pays on the national debt, the Federal budget would now be running a small surplus.

That is like saying, arsenic is OK, if it was not poisonous.

Mr. President, I am told that the President himself, speaking to students at Emory University, said the same thing—that we are really running a surplus here.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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